

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-83, 85-90, and 92-94 are pending in this Application.

Claims 80-83, 85-90, and 92-94 are allowed.

Claims 34 and 47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 14, 21-23, 25, 35, 36, 38, 48-54, 56, 64-69, 71, and 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall (U.S. Patent No. 5,703,623) in view of Shouen (U.S. Patent No. 5,619,321) and Balakrishnan (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,028).

Claims 3, 5-10, 13, 15-20, 24, 26-33, 37, 39-46, 55, 57-63, 70, and 72-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall, Shouen, Balakrishnan and Isoguchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,146,353).

With this response claims 23, 25, 26, 34, 36, 38, 39, 47, and 48 are amended, and claims 1-22, 24, 32, 33, 35, 37, 45, 46, and 49-79 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

II. Claim Amendments

The first Office Action received in this case (dated 6/19/2002) stated that claims 34 and 47 were “objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims”. The Applicant notes that this first Office Action was responsive to the claims as originally filed.

With this response, the Applicant amends claim 34 to be in “independent form” and to “includ[e] all of the limitations” of “base claim” 22 as originally filed and the “intervening

claims". Likewise, the Applicant amends claim 47 to be in "independent form" and to "includ[e] all of the limitations" of "base claim" 35 as originally filed and the "intervening claims".

In view at least the foregoing, the Applicant submits that claims 34 and 47, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Also with this response, the Applicant amends claim 48 to include matter similar to that of claim 47 as amended herewith. Claim 48 is thought to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 47 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No.

1232-4573. **A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.**

Furthermore, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response

timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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